

Sub-Strategy Detail
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Agency Code: 501		Agency Name: Texas Department of Health		Prepared By:		Statewide Goal Code: 8		Strategy Code: 03-01-01	
GOAL:		03							
OBJECTIVE:		01							
STRATEGY:		01 Health Care Standards							
SUB-STRATEGY:		01 Health Care Professionals							
				EXPENDED		EXPENDED		BUDGETED	
CODE DESCRIPTION				FY 2000		FY 2001		FY 2002	
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:									
1001 Salaries and Wages				5,180,002		5,253,594		5,372,176	
1002 Other Personnel Costs				120,833		163,772		253,055	
2000 Operating Costs				1,223,773		1,029,080		740,000	
4000 Grants				90,048		65,650		180,178	
5000 Capital Expenditures				48,774		7,823		141,702	
TOTAL, OBJECTS OF EXPENSE				6,663,430		6,519,919		6,687,111	
METHOD OF FINANCING:									
001 General Revenue				4,902,313		4,696,076		5,306,315	
129 GR Account - Hospital Licensing				103,460		120,486		41,525	
512 GR Account - Bureau of Emergency Management				865,539		789,733		834,001	
Subotal, General Revenue Fund - Dedicated				968,999		910,219		875,526	
555 Federal Funds:									
CFDA #83.503, FEMA - Houston Flooding				12,109		3,192		0	
CFDA #83.534.001, Disaster Preparedness				46		0		22,256	
CFDA #83.552, Emergency Management Assistance for				117,219		183,127		136,714	
CFDA #93.777.003, Clinical Laboratory Improvement				46,102		51,782		0	
CFDA #93.777.005, Health Insurance Benefits				13,747		26,390		95,296	
CFDA #93.991, Preventive Health and Health Services				340,195		288,070		204,107	
Subtotal, Federal Funds				529,418		552,561		458,373	

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666 Appropriated Receipts				261,973		241,903		42,405	
777 Interagency Contracts				727		119,160		4,492	
Subtotal, Other Funds				262,700		361,063		46,897	
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING									
				6,663,430		6,519,919		6,687,111	
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS				145.8		142.5		151.5	

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Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Professional Licensing and Certification Division: Implement a regulatory program for health care professionals to ensure timely, accurate issuance of licenses, registrations, certifications, permits, documentations and placement on a registry. Also implement a cost-effective, efficient, consistent plan to credential and provide technical assistance to health care professionals.

This division is responsible for managing 18 different programs given under statutory authority to develop and implement this substrategy as follows:

1. Athletic Trainers; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 451
2. Contact Lens Dispensing Permit Program; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 353
3. Sex Offender Treatment Providers; TCS Article 4413(51)
4. Licensed Dietitians; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 701
5. Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 402
6. Licensed Professional Counselor Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 503
7. Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 502
8. Massage Therapy Registration Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 455
9. Medical Physics Practice Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 602
10. Medical Radiologic Technologist Certification Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 601
11. Opticians' Registry Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 352
12. Orthotics and Prosthetics Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 605
13. Licensed Perfusionists Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 603
14. Respiratory Care Practitioners; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 604
15. Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 401
16. Texas Professional Social Worker Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 405
17. Health-Related Registry; Health and Safety Code, Chapter 127
18. Texas Midwifery Act; Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 203

Bureau of Emergency Management: Chapter 773 of the Health and Safety Code requires the TDH to develop a state plan for the prompt and efficient delivery of adequate emergency medical services (EMS) to acutely sick and injured persons. The Act allows the TDH to establish and maintain the certification/licensure of EMS personnel; license EMS providers; conduct prevention education; provide direct grants to local EMS providers; and provide technical assistance support in the development, quality improvement, and evaluation of the EMS system. Certification and licensing requires processing applications, screening of criminal backgrounds, administration of a reliable and valid examination, and the development and maintenance of computerized management information systems. These services are provided to insure that the citizens and visitors of Texas receive quality prehospital services provided by qualified, regulated, health care professionals who meet minimal competency standards.

Article 6687b, Section 21A, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, requires the Medical Advisory Board to make professional medical recommendations to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) as to the ability of individuals to operate a motor vehicle and/or a handgun safely. Recommendations can entail approval or denial of driving privileges/handgun license, possible restrictions or behind-the-wheel testing of applicants by DPS Troopers.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

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Professional Licensing and Certification Division: The functional activities associated with the substrategy include reviewing all applications for participation to determine that all minimum qualifications for licensure, registration or certification have been met. The division is responsible for the examination process whether through contract vendors or developing the examination in-house. Additionally, the annual or biennial renewal processes ensure that those minimum qualifications are maintained by reviewing pertinent information related to renewal. A complaint management/investigative component of the division investigates complaints against licensed personnel and reports findings to the appropriate board, advisory committee, or division management staff.

Efforts to respond to court orders normally arise out of the administrative hearing process conducted by Department legal counsel staff or through the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Findings and recommendations are presented to the appropriate licensing authority. Final action of the licensing authority is then carried out by administrative staff. There is no relationship with other agency strategies nor are there any associated funding requirements.

The other factors justifying implementation of the substrategy include ensuring that competent professionals have been duly licensed, certified or registered in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations. Also, upon final action of the licensing authority, proper action is taken to promote the public health and safety of the citizens of Texas through revocation, suspension, or other sanctioning action as directed.

The Texas Midwifery Program does not collect sufficient fees to cover the costs of program operations. The Optician's Registry Program has a statutory cap on the amount of fees to be charged for applications and renewals, which are not sufficient to cover program costs.

The means by which the substrategy contributes to meeting primary agency goals and objectives, as well as, priority goals and benchmarks is through reviews of applicant materials, timely action and follow up on complaints and swift action to impose sanctions on those licensees found to be out of compliance. These actions are taken to assure quality services to our citizens, promote TDH's commitment to quality and organizational excellence and to respond to the changing environment in a timely manner to achieve a healthier Texas.

Bureau of Emergency Management: Volunteer EMS personnel are exempt from certification fees to help assure the provision of EMS services in rural areas. This fee exemption prevents the program from collecting sufficient revenue to cover program costs.